BISP Certificate Program: Health and Society

BISP Certificate Overview

The BISP Certificate in Health and Society is for visiting students who are interested in fields such as public health, health management and economics, health education, social work, psychology, sports medicine and other fields in which individual and collective matters of health have an impact. It may also be useful for students who intend to practice medicine, however, courses in the biological sciences are limited to those that have a focus on behavioral and societal issues.

The BISP Certificate in Health and Society consists of multidisciplinary fields and courses focused on the connections between social, cultural, and behavioral factors and human health, illness and health care and the resulting impact on individuals and populations. Students will acquire a good foundation in social inequalities and health disparities that exist throughout the world and that affect various aspects of health.

Learning Goals

By pursuing this BISP certificate, you will gain:

- UC Berkeley academic credit in a focused set of courses tailored to your interests in health and society.
- Faculty guidance on a culminating certificate project in which you will synthesize learnings and insight gained through your coursework and research at UC Berkeley.
- Research and analytical skills through approaching health issues from multiple perspectives.
- Communication and presentation skills through your participation in the BISP Certificate Program and coursework.

Sample Courses

For a more complete list of pre-approved courses, click here.

- Sociology of the Life Course
- Health and Development
- Demography of Deaths, Diseases, and Disasters
- Illness Narratives, Vulnerable Bodies
- Gender and the Politics of Childhood
- Cultural Representation of Sexuality
- Social Psychology
- Science, Technology and Society





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"Having courses such as "Sociology of Health and Medicine" and "Sociology of Work" at UC Berkeley provided me with new knowledge, perspectives and experiences that I will bring with me in my future studies and work life."

Silja Ormaasen, Health Management and Health Economics, University in Oslo

About BISP

BISP provides study opportunities at UC Berkeley for visiting international and domestic students for one or two semesters. BISP supports its students beginning to end, and provides a robust set of activities to get to know students from around the world. Due to the pandemic we are mostly a virtual program, which provides unique opportunities for students to participate in our program near and far away. BISP sponsors qualified students by way of invitation to apply with UC Berkeley Extension who provide the means for enrolling in Berkeley courses on a space availability basis (many courses have space!), processes tuition and fees, and provides the necessary visa documents when possible for international students.

Applying for the BISP Certificate is Easy!

- Please fill out a simple inquiry form on our Contact page. We recommend doing this right away to receive relevant and timely information about the program and deadlines, and to ask questions.
- For more information about BISP Certificates, visit bisp.berkeley.edu/certificates
- Spring 2021: BISP Goes Virtual! More information is available at **bisp.berkeley.edu/virtual**